IN THE CLAIMS

Claim 1 has been amended as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A holder for wide magnetic recording tape comprising:

four generally rectangular lateral walls each of equal height;

an opening in at least one of said lateral walls allowing access to a central space inside said lateral walls;

a first pair of tape hubs mounted between two opposite ones of said lateral walls for rotation around respective rotational axes proceeding through said two opposite ones of said lateral walls, said first pair of tape hubs having a first magnetic recording tape thereon for winding and unwinding in a transport direction between said first pair of tape hubs and spanning said central space;

a second pair of tape hubs rotatably mounted between said opposite ones of said lateral walls for rotation around respective rotational axes, said second pair of tape hubs having a second magnetic recording tape thereon for winding and unwinding in said transport direction between said second pair of tape hubs and spanning said central space;

said central space being defined at a first side thereof by one of the tape hubs in said first pair and at a second, opposite side thereof by one of the tape hubs in said second pair; and

the respective rotational axes of said first pair of tape hubs and the respective rotational axes of said second pair of tape hubs all being parallel to each other and perpendicular to said transport direction.

2. (Original) A holder as claimed in claim 1 wherein the tape hubs in said first pair of tape hubs are rotatably mounted between said opposite ones of said lateral walls in alternation with the tape hubs in said second pair of tape hubs, with one tape hub in said first pair of tape hubs being disposed adjacent a first side of said central space and one tape hub of said second pair of tape hubs being disposed adjacent a second side of said central space, opposite said first side of said central space.

3. (Previously Presented) A holder as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said first magnetic recording tape and said second magnetic recording tape has a width, measured perpendicular to said transport direction and parallel to said rotational axes of said first and second pairs of tape hubs, which is greater than approximately 24 mm.

4. (Previously Presented) A holder as claimed in claim 1 wherein each of said first magnetic recording tape and said second magnetic recording tape has a width, measured perpendicular to said transport direction and parallel to said rotational axes of said first and second pairs of tape hubs, which is a range between approximately 24 mm and approximately 127 mm.

5. (Previously Presented) A holder for magnetic recording tape comprising:

a first pair of tape hubs having a first magnetic recording tape wound thereon;

a second pair of tape hubs having a second magnetic recording tape wound thereon;

a holder assembly in which said first and second pairs of tape hubs are rotatably mounted, said holder assembly having a central space therein, between one of the tape hubs in said first pair and one of the

tape hubs in said second pair, with each of said first and second magnetic recording tapes spanning said central space; and

said first and second magnetic recording tapes each being movable in a transport direction and having a width perpendicular to said transport direction of at least approximately 24 mm.

6. (Original) A holder as claimed in claim 5 wherein each of said first and second magnetic recording tapes has a width in a range between approximately 24 mm and 127 mm.

7. (Previously Presented) A tape drive comprising:

a base plate;

four drive motors mounted to said base plate, each of said motors having a drive shaft projecting through said base plate, the respective drive shafts of said motors being parallel to each other with respective spaces therebetween and including a central two of said drive shafts with a largest of said spaces therebetween;

a magnetic recording head; and

a head positioning assembly, on which said recording head is mounted, disposed between said central two of said drive shafts, said head positioning assembly selectively positioning said recording head along a direction parallel to said drive shafts.

Claim 8 has been amended as follows:

8. (Currently amended) A tape drive as claimed in claim 7 wherein said recording head is a dual recording head having first and second read/write elements disposed ~~180°~~ 180° opposite each other.

Claim 9 has been amended as follows:

9. (Currently amended) A tape drive as claimed in claim 7 wherein said recording head is a single recording head, having one read/write element, wherein said head positioning assembly further comprises a rotatable support on which said read/write element is mounted and being rotatable to selectively position said read/write element at respective positions which are ~~180°~~ 180° opposite each other.

10. (Original) A tape drive as claimed in claim 7 wherein said head positioning assembly comprises:

a slide mounted to said base plate, a mount, to which said recording head is attached, slidable along said slide, and two lateral guides disposed on opposite sides of said mount to guide movement of said mount in said direction parallel to said drive shafts.

11. (Original) A tape drive as claimed in claim 7 wherein said drive shafts have respective rotational axes which, in combination, define a plane, and wherein said tape drive further comprises a first set of tape guides mounted to and projecting from said base plate parallel to said drive shafts and disposed above said plane, and a second pair of tape guides mounted to and projecting from said base plate parallel to said drive shafts below said plane.

Claim 12 has been cancelled.

12. (Cancelled)